

Dec. 19, 1974

Legal Dept., United Farm Workers
Debbie Vollmer, Attorney

P. O. Box #130
Delano, Ca 93215

Dear Debbie and Sisters and Brothers,

Enclosed is signed and notarized is legal action, Lopez, Adair, & Reyes vs. Safeway.

I must admit I'm dissappointed in the settlement, and am signing only because I'm not still in Delano participating in the case and the decision-making leading up to the settlement. Those (temporarily) inactive in the struggle should (temporarily) loose their vote. But I'm sure the minimal monetary settlement is irrelevant to the Union and I personally would much rather have a letter of apology from Safeway. The money hardly covers the bail, much less the legal expenses involved in the prosecution, and is nothing in payment for my night in jail. Of course I would picket and go to jail again for no return. But it hardly seems worth the union's time to prosecute a case like this if they are willing to settle for nothing. Perhaps there are institutional relationships or settlements I'm not aware of that make this kind of thing worth while. Otherwise, why bother? We thought at the time that we could eliminate the Delano Patrol from the Rent-a-Cop business and permanently remove Marlin Ridge and his sidekicks from the business. I know the legal department is involved primarily in institutional suits, but the individuals involved as plaintiffs will certainly not gain respect for the Union lawyers if the lawyers embark with great fanfare and publicity in their behalf, only to settle quietly a year or so later. People like Rudy and me have few illusions to begin with. But it is a dangerous path to travel, to tell the members that they must accept the wisdom and leadership and advice of the experts, the professionals, the officials, and then begin playing legal games like monopoly or checkers. Your plaintiffs are real people, who got their heads bashed in, or thrown in jail, whose families were disrupted, who lost jobs and homes. Sure, we're willing to make the "sacrifices" even if there are no union lawyers, or no union. We fight because we believe in the fight, and in that sense there are no "sacrifices" involved. But to send out a form letter saying "sign the form in two copies" kind of degrades the action.

Yours for the Revolution,
Que Viva la Causa....
(and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

Doug Adair
Tenneco-Ducor Camp #1